



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

SAN JUAN CREEK /
WESTERN SAN MATEO CREEK WATERSHED SAMP
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Public Notice/Application No.: 199916236-YJC
Comment Period: December 29, 2006 through January 29, 2007
Project Manager: Jae Chung, (Telephone: 213-452-3292)
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ACTIVITY: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the San Juan Creek and Western San Mateo Creek Watersheds, Orange County, CA.

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Regulatory Branch.

ACTION: Notice of Availability for a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch has completed the Final EIS for the San Juan Creek Watershed/Western San Mateo Creek Watershed Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). The San Juan Creek Watershed/Western San Mateo Creek Watershed SAMP establishes three alternative permitting procedures that balance aquatic resource protection and reasonable economic development for the San Juan Creek Watershed and western San Mateo Creek Watershed. The Notice of Availability was published within the Federal Register. This Special Public Notice notifies individuals and organizations who may not regularly access the Federal Register of the publication of the Notice of Availability and also provides duplicate information found in the Federal Register notice.

The Final EIS will be available to the public for 30 days from December 29, 2006 to January 29, 2007. After the 30 day availability period, a Record of Decision will be issued.

Supplementary Information

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps is authorized to issue permits for activities that discharge dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, for roads, developments,

utilities, and other activities. For the San Juan Creek and western San Mateo Creek Watersheds, the Corps is proposing a watershed-based SAMP to balance aquatic resource protection and reasonable economic development. The SAMP is an improvement over the current incremental case-by-case approach, which does a less effective job of taking a watershed perspective of aquatic resources and considering the needs of future permit applicants. The SAMP involves characterizing aquatic resource conditions and processes through the watershed, establishing alternative permitting procedures more appropriate for the given aquatic resources in the watershed, and developing a coordinated aquatic resources management framework.

The Draft EIS was made available to the public on November 21, 2005. The Corps accepted written comments until January 16, 2006, and accepted oral comments in a public hearing dated December 6, 2006. The Corps received ten written comments throughout the comment period and two oral comments at the public hearing.

The Final EIS is available to the public at the reference desks at the following local libraries:

Dana Point Library
33841 Niguel Road
Laguna Niguel, CA 92656.

Laguna Niguel Library
30341 Crown Valley Parkway
Laguna Niguel, CA 92656

San Juan Capistrano Library
31495 El Camino Real
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Laguna Hills Library
25555 Alicia Parkway
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Mission Viejo Library
100 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

San Clemente Library
242 Avenida Del Mar
San Clemente, CA 92672

Rancho Santa Margarita Library
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

If you would like additional information or a copy of the Final EIS, please contact Mr. Jae Chung by phoning (213) 452-3292, by sending an electronic mail to yong.j.chung@usace.army.mil, or by visiting <http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/samp/sanjuancreeksamp.htm>. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.